

## Bird Watching at Muthurajawela

### Birding and Nature Tour in Muthurajawela Wetland, in Close Proximity to Colombo and Negombo

SLDT/1702/BW04



### Why should you book this trip?

- It is a fascinating activity for those who love bird watching in the beautiful natural environment.
- Muthurajawela wetland bears over 194 species of flora, distributed over seven major vegetation types which includes marsh, lactic flora, shrub land, reed, swamp, grasslands, stream bank and mangrove forest.
- Muthurajawela wetland is not home to only birds but also many species of fish, reptiles, and mammals including nationally endangered species.
- Guidance by an experienced birding guide/naturalist makes this even more special and inspiring.
- Ideal day excursion to be done either from Colombo or Negombo as it's located in close proximity to both cities.
- Opportunity to interact with the local fishing community.

## Quick Facts

- Preferred starting time of the tour is Morning:7.30 a.m. or Evening: 4 p.m.
- Duration: Two hours
- Lead time: Two days prior notice
- Possible period - All around the year
- Arrival and departure transport for any location could be arranged on request for an additional cost

## You will meet



**Keith**

Keith is a young and hands-on naturalist who is bursting with enthusiasm for the work he does. Starting his volunteer work in his teenage years and having studied subjects pertaining to biodiversity, conservation and environmental degradation throughout his university career, he has stepped into the professional arena with a glowing portfolio of qualifications and field work. He is a dedicated animal handler, having worked closely with animals from a very young age, while he has also participated in and contributed to several research projects pertaining to matters of biodiversity.

## Included in the price

- Services of a local birding guide
- Boat fee
- Bottled water

## Exclusions

- Transportation
- Any extra beverages or food consumed
- Any tips
- Any personal effects not mentioned above

## Tour in brief

You will meet the Sri Lanka Day Tours staff as well as your guide/naturalist at the pre-designated location. For the morning tour, your starting time will be 7.30 a.m. while the evening excursion begins at 4 p.m. You will be greeted by our warm staff and will be briefed on the two-hour programme by your guide/naturalist before entering the wetlands

Once in the wetlands, you will be able to witness firsthand, the reasons why the Muthurajawela sanctuary is renowned as one of the best natural habitats closer to the capital city of Colombo. Home to a dazzling array of birds, mammals, reptiles and flora, this natural haven is a hotspot for all those with an enthusiasm for the wild

Sri Lanka's Day Tours owning company Eco Team's Specialised Birding Arm offers professional and quality birding and nature tours in Sri Lanka since year 2000 for the birding community around the world with varied levels of interest

We have carefully planned every birding and nature tour to maximize our birding success by visiting as many habitats, altitudinal zones, and local lesser known hideouts as possible while still maintaining a reasonable tour pace

## Important

- Suitable casual clothing for windy, rainy, warm weather conditions should be considered
- Cameras/video recorders

## Muthurajawela wetlands

The Muthurajawela marsh is part of an integrated coastal wetland system of high biodiversity and ecological significance, which covers an area of 3,068 ha. It is located between 10-30 km north of Colombo in the Gampaha District. Together with the Negombo Lagoon (3,164 ha), Muthurajawela forms an integrated coastal wetland system of high biodiversity and ecological significance.

The ecosystem is listed as one of 12 priority wetlands in Sri Lanka, and in 1996, an area of some 1,777 ha in the northern section of Muthurajawela was declared a wetland sanctuary. The wetland makes a natural habitat for hundreds of varieties of endangered species as well as endemic species. Due to the ecological and biological importance of this wetland sanctuary it was recently named a 'protected wetland of the world.

It is considered one of most important places in Sri Lanka in terms of flora and is a hotspot for botanists and plant enthusiasts. The Bio diversity report says 209 fauna varieties were identified in the sanctuary, with 17 endemic types and 26 nationally threatened varieties.